

CITY NEWS

The new perspective on city living

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October 23 - October 29, 2002

NJ "racial profiling" crime bill advances

Assembly bill leads a package of legislation dealing with the biased practice.

TRENTON — Delivering on a promise by Assembly Democratic Leadership, the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee has released a committee substitute for legislation that would outlaw racial profiling.

The bill (A-1308/342/2140) sponsored by Assemblymen William D. Payne, Wilfredo Caraballo, and Gordon M. Johnson would criminalize racial profiling, making it a third degree crime punishable by up to 5 years in prison and \$15,000 in fines. The measure is one of four bills the committee released to curtail discriminatory police practices in the state.

"The time has come to finally put a stop to the heinous, humiliating and degrading practice of racial profiling," said Payne (D-Essex). "Until this legislation is enacted, minority motorists will not feel safe traveling state roads." Payne said the bill also will encourage minorities to become part of the State Police, making the elite force more representative of the state's population. He says with a more diversified force, racial profiling cases would dissipate on their own.

Racial profiling is the act of initiating an investigative traffic stop based on the driver or passenger's color, race, ethnicity, or age. The legislation stems from recommendations made in 1999 by the New Jersey Legislative Black and Latino Caucus in "A Report on Discriminatory Practices Within the New Jersey State Police." The report sought to correct, remedy, and prevent civil rights violations and employment discrimination in the State Police.

"We must confront this form of bigotry, hate and bias that constitutes a pox upon our society," said Caraballo (D-Essex). "proposed reforms will make the State Police a more

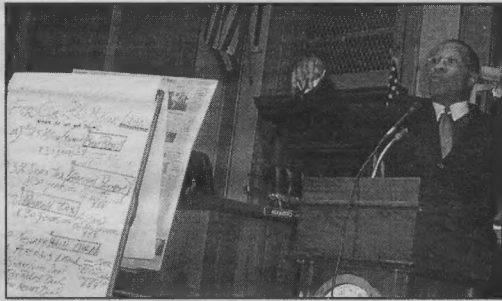
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\$165M Port Authority lease boosts arena likelihood

By Scheryl Gant

NEWARK — Newark Mayor Sharpe James was nearly all smiles Thursday at a joint press conference where he and six members of the City Council explained the details of financing a \$355 million sports and entertainment arena project with money from a lease deal with the Port Authority of New Jersey and New York (PA).

The action ended weeks of grueling, agony among the members of the City Council, who wrestled with the budget woes including potential layoffs of essential services personnel, pension losses, school funding demands, the economy downturn and post September 11, 2001 disaster and increased domestic terrorist defense costs, according to information



CN Photo by Scheryl Gant

Mayor Sharpe James explains Port Authority and budget numbers

released Thursday.

Two City Council members — Donald Tucker and Bessie Walker — objected to the final details of the plan during a marathon five hour closed-door executive session on Wednesday. Neither Tucker or

Walker attended the press conference. Also absent was Council member Gail Chaneyfield-Jenkins, who voted to approve the legislation. The votes came during a tumultuous council meeting where about 120 members of the pub-

lic lined up on the supporting and opposing sides. The public was not allowed to speak during the Wednesday night session.

A key next step will be resuming negotiations with the YankeeNets organization, the owners of the New Jersey Nets and Devils. Mayor James says he is optimistic that the team officials will welcome talks with Newark regarding building the 18,500-seat state of the arts facility.

"Up until now there have been three great public projects in the history of Newark," a jubilant Mayor James told members of the press. "The seaport, the airport and Penn Station. The arena project will be the greatest public works project since those three great

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Beltway sniper dims a brilliant New Jersey star

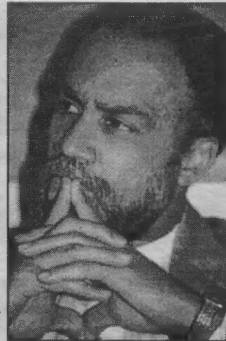
By Scheryl Gant

OAKLYN — The news was alarming enough in itself: The Maryland sniper had taken the life of an eighth victim. The details were sketchy. A Philadelphia businessman, the father of six, was fatally wounded while fueling his car at a Virginia gas station. We were shocked to learn that a Virginia state trooper was less than 50 feet away when another innocent American citizen was assassinated when the unknown terrorist struck again.

As more details were learned about the shooting victim on Friday, October 11, the news struck closer to home. Family members, friends, neighbors and the American politician and business commu-

nity soon learned that the businessman was Ken Bridges, the dynamic 53 year old co-founder of the MATAH Network, an Oaklyn company that pursues African American economic development. The MATAH Network has more than 7,000 members nationwide.

Bridges, a native of Philadelphia, was returning from a business trip on that fateful morn-



Ken Bridges

ing when he was murdered. The night before his path crossed that of the maniacal sniper, Bridges was in had traveled to North Carolina and inked an agreement with the executives of Dudley Products Inc. to distribute more than \$100 million in health and beauty products. It was the stuff of Bridges' life: Black companies collaborating to empower each other through economic enterprise. He expounded on his views in an address to the Rally for

Reparations in Washington, D.C. last August.

"His speech stood out because rather than focus on any handouts, he promoted his novel idea of internal reparations," Lloyd Williams, a writer and attorney recalls. "He promoted self-help, through black people simply supporting each other's businesses."

Bridges is credited with producing ground breaking research after the 1995 Million Man March to document the potential of the economic power blacks would have if they combined their buying power.

Bridges, a MBA graduate from the prestigious Wharton School of Business, at the University of Pennsylvania,

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Black ministers of endorse Lautenberg

Veteran U.S. Senate candidate commended for strong record of fighting for the families of NJ

TRENTON

Commended by the Black Ministers of New Jersey for his long record of fighting for the families of New Jersey, Senator Frank Lautenberg received their endorsement for the United States Senate recently.

"To you who serve so many throughout the great state of New Jersey I thank you for having faith in me," said Senator Lautenberg on the Statehouse

steps, flanked by ministers from throughout the state. "Whether it's on issues of gun control, quality education, racial profiling or affordable prescription drugs, when a church calls, a school calls, a parent calls, I have been there and I pledge I will continue in the future to answer that call."

Senator Lautenberg has long been an advocate for the issues that the ministry cares

about, like protecting our families from gun violence, writing the law to keep guns out of the hands of wife beaters and child abusers. Senator Lautenberg has also introduced legislation to close the gun show loophole, which currently enables criminals to purchase guns at gun shows without the background check required for sales in stores. He introduced legislation to crack down on gun traf-

ficking by limiting handgun purchases to one per month. And Senator Lautenberg even introduced legislation to mandate childproof locks on guns through "smart gun" technology.

Douglas Forrester, on the other hand, opposes all new gun legislation, believing that we should do nothing to protect o

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Have an observation you want to share?

Send it to: **Curious Observer**

City News, 111 Mulberry St., TH-C Newark, NJ 07102
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Members of the National Guard and U.S. Forces Reserve look on as Pfizer Chairman and CEO Hank McKinnell, center, signs a Statement of Support for employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve, Tuesday, October 15, 2002, in New York. David A. Duffy, left, chairman of the New York State Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), and Phil Nater, right, New York City chairman of the Committee to Support ESGR.



Rahway's Picnic for Seniors: Union County Freeholder Chester Holmes (l) joined Thelma Wilson and Anna Pyatt for Rahway's Picnic for Seniors, held at the Kennedy Apartments.

Curious Observer ?

As the U.S. Senate race comes down the wire, former Senator Frank Lautenberg, the Democrat, is trouncing the Republican challenger, Douglass Forrester in the polls. A debate is scheduled three days before the election, but insiders are guessing Lautenberg's strategy is to run out the clock.

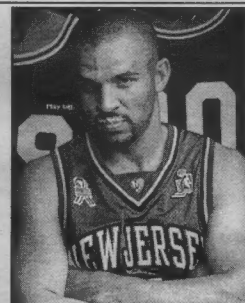
Newark Mayor Sharpe James took a swipe at Republican County Executive candidate Candy Straight last week when a reporter asked him about her opposition to Essex County funding for the arena project. James retorted that Candy Straight's record in urban issues was dismal. James said Ms. Straight, a protégé of former Governor Christy Whitman and member of the NJ Sports and Exposition Authority, voted to demolish homes in a stable middle class African American community to allow casino baron Steve Wynn to build a tunnel from the Atlantic City Expressway to casino properties. In a word play, Mayor James said Ms. Straight was "Not straight. She's crooked."

Perhaps it was an exuberant oversight but Newark City Council members had to cancel a press conference last Thursday morning where they planned to explain their "historic" arena announcement. The same press conference was scheduled and held several hours later by the mayor. The mayor was reportedly in Trenton during the morning when the first press conference was scheduled to be held. Everyone was nice-nice at the press conference in spite of the snafu.

It was good to see the Hispanic Council Members and Mayor Sharpe James on such good terms at the arena press conference last week. They all have come along way publically since the warm summer days when there was still some heated, and hurt feeling over the Newark City election outcome that resulted in the Mayor defeating challenger Corey Booker, and dashing some political hopes.



Local resident, Heard installed: Natalie M. Heard of Colonial Woods Dr. In West Orange was recently elected to the Board of Governors of the Giblin Association. From (l to r): Thomas P. Giblin, Standard Bearer of the Association, Natalie Heard and Alfred Sharkey, President of the Giblin Association. The Giblin Association is a 48-year old civic, charitable, and social organization based in Essex County. The Installment and reception was recently held at the Mayfair in West Orange.



Milk ad: NBA superstar Jason Kidd posed for a milk mustache campaign recently. Kidd's ad will debut in the NBA Preview Issue of Sports Illustrated, hitting newsstands on October 21.

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by: Samm-Art Williams

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Speakers at the WMBE Workshop presented by Professional Women in Construction (PWC). From (l to r): Priscilla Triolo, Esq., Peckar & Abramson, PC; Andrea Strong, Turtle & Hughes, Inc.; Lenore Janis, President, PWC; Gwendolyn Colbert-Kushner, Director of Business Development, PWC; Claire Dezotell and James Loreiga of The General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen.



Global Youth Forum video conferences: Congressman Donald Payne met with St. Vincent Academy (SVA) students during a video conference with North Ireland and South African youth. The House of Representative meeting was hosted by NJIT.

Briefs

BELAFONTE, POWELL IN SPAT

(NNPA) — Harry Belafonte, long active on the frontlines of the Civil Rights Movement, was recently highly critical of the Bush administration's decision last year not to send the secretary of state Colin Powell or any other high-level official to the international conference on racism in Durban, South Africa. Powell said he is proud to be serving President Bush.

THURMOND, GOP FUME OVER JUDGE

(NNPA)—Senate GOP members are fuming over the latest move by the Senate Judiciary Committee—under pressure from the civil rights community—to delay a vote on the confirmation of yet another conservative judge nominated by President Bush to serve on the federal appeals court. Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), who is retiring after nearly 50 years, says he was promised that the nomination of U.S. District Judge Dennis Shedd, his protégé, to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., would proceed in the Senate.

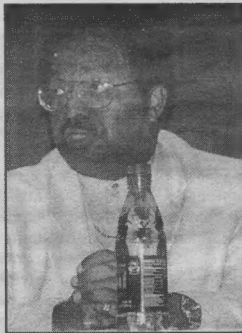
By Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Washington Correspondent

This is the second in a series of articles on the 2002 election.

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—More than 1.4 million African-American men will not be able to vote on Nov. 5 even though they have served all of their prison time for a past felony conviction. In New Jersey alone, 65,000 black men are affected.

When all disenfranchised former felons are included, the total number is 3.9 million. The vast majority of inmates—approximately 630,000 per year—are released from state and federal prisons back into society. In New Jersey there are a total of 138,300 former felon disenfranchised voters, according to figures from The Sentencing Project in Washington, D.C., and Human Rights Watch in New York. Many of these former inmates say that taking away their right to vote after they have served time amounts to prison after prison.

Kemba Smith, an ex-offender who was pardoned by President Bill Clinton in 2000, says felons are often misunderstood by people who think they are looking for special treatment. "It's not an issue about



Rev. Timothy McDonald

being soft on crime. It's an issue about a right, a human right that should be allowed us," explains Smith, of Richmond, Va. She is part of a growing movement by individuals and groups around the country, who assert that convicted felons have already repaid their debt to society and should be allowed to vote.

Support for the movement is coming from some surprising quarters, such as Virginia Gov. Mark Warner, a Democrat. Warner has made the process much easier for ex-felons to regain their voting rights in Virginia, where one in every four black men is disenfranchised because of a felony conviction. The governor reduced

a 13-page application to one page and reduced all waiting periods for nonviolent offenders from as many as seven years to three years after completing probation or parole.

Fourteen states permanently disenfranchise felons unless they apply for their rights through a gubernatorial pardon or other administrative procedures. Twelve states automatically restore the right to vote at the end of incarceration. Thirty-two states prohibit felons from voting while on probation, the Sentencing Project reports.

The demand for voting rights for convicted felons could swell into a massive civil rights movement if advocates for felony voting rights have their way.

"What is emerging is a movement," says the Rev. Timothy McDonald, pastor of Atlanta's First Iconium Baptist Church and president of the People for the American Way's National African-American Ministers Leadership Council.

Addressing a recent panel on voter disenfranchisement in Washington, D.C., McDonald said, "It is about power, who gets the power and who exercises the power ... That's why it's 1.4 million Black males

who are disenfranchised."

Giving full voting rights to former felons is opposed by conservative groups, such as the Heritage Foundation and the Center for Equal Opportunity.

"What it does most is it protects those who live in high-crime neighborhoods, particularly those in the minority communities—whose leadership has forsaken them on this issue—against vote dilution by those, who in any other civilized society, would have to demonstrate that," says Todd Gaziano, director of legal studies for the Heritage Foundation.

What can be done? Dianne M. Pinderhughes, a political science professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana, says pressure could be placed on Congress in 2007, when Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act is set for a review and a decision on renewal. That section determines whether states with a history of discrimination need continued federal oversight on voting matters.

"I would expect that would be an issue that they might want to bring up for the 2007 extension because all the work that's been done after 1965, a lot of that has been pushed back [because of disenfranchisement]," Pinderhughes says.

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Editorial

Council members took a leap of faith on the arena

Congratulations to the members of the Newark City Council for passing legislation to put the arena talks back on the calendar of the city, state, county and YankeeNets officials.

Mayor Sharpe James and the nine City Council Members, even those who opposed the diverting \$165 million of the cash lease payment from the Port Authority to avert major job reduction in the city that given the state of gang activity, can ill afford to have fewer police men on the streets. Nor, can the city, which is building an image of Newark as a thriving metropolitan city, risk damaging that fragile image because of a lack of services, and disgruntled employees.

We agree believe that given the economy and the possibility of a war, the City Council was faced with a narrow window of opportunity to seal Newark's fate. Speaking at a press conference last week several council members, including Council President Donald Bradley respected and legitimized the turbulent discussions over the best steps to take now in light of the city's economy. Many questions could not be answered given the enormity of the situation, and the short time frame in which they had to decide what action to take. Mayor James aptly pointed out that the city's negotiation strength with Port Authority will be greatly diminished if the United States goes to war with Iraq. Time was at hand.

When faced with the question of will it be boom, or will it be doom, Council Member Mamie Bridgeforth says she and the members who supported using city funds to get the arena project under way in Newark took "a leap of faith."

We know that greatness begins with little more than faith and vision, so we believe that this City Council took a step towards creating a legacy of economic development, entrepreneurial enterprise, world class hotel and restaurant development that will define Newark and New Jersey centuries from now.

There still remains a go-ahead from the YankeeNets executives to resume the negotiations that were derailed last summer when financing the arena project was sacrificed in state budget battles. The original goal of all parties was to have the project completed by 2005 when the New Jersey Newts and Devils lease expired on the Continental Airlines Arena in the Meadowlands.

Some financial details remain to be worked out, but the City fathers and mothers have taken responsibility for fueling the economic engine that will enable them to provide monies for better schools, expanded city services, enhances personnel training and other vital city needs in the future decades. This is an important move at a time when the economy is down, and federal, state and county governments are also faced with tough financial choices.

Bradley said the council was not elected to dance around tough questions, they were elected to act. And act they did, in a gripping fashion that showed compassion for the people of Newark, forethought about the future of the city, schools and residents, and with the courage to make bold visionary decisions not based on political appearances, but based on informed reason and sincere commitment to their office.

America's Cornerstone of Freedom

By George C. Landrith

America celebrated the 215th anniversary of its famed Constitution last month. Most of us take for granted the rights protected by this governing document. But if given a chance to reflect, what constitutionally protected rights do Americans think are the most fundamental to our freedom?

Oddly enough, the cornerstone to the freedom we enjoy is found in our rights to property - our economic rights. Why, you ask? How can the right to own something be more important than free speech and press? The answer is simple. Without property rights, no other important right can long survive. Property rights are the soil in which all other rights can grow and mature.

The truth is that property rights impact us all. If you pay income taxes, sales taxes, Social Security taxes, or property taxes; if you own a home or a car; if you have a savings account or retirement account, or own stock - you have a stake in protecting property rights.

America's property rights are under siege. High taxes take from workers the fruits of their labors. Thomas Jefferson warned against a spendthrift government that unnecessarily took from the "laborer the bread he has earned." Certain environmental regulations prevent landowners from the reasonable use and control of their own homes, farms, and ranches. Other regulations burden individuals and businesses and limit their ability to direct their

labors and business affairs. The attacks on property rights never seem to end. Then, when someone stands up to defend the cornerstone of our freedom, the very people who lead the assault on property rights too often label them "greedy".

As America celebrates the 215th anniversary of our Constitution, we would do well to remember the forgotten right - the right that provides the environment of independence in which all other rights can flourish - property rights. It's an American tradition worth saving.

George C. Landrith is the President of Frontiers of Freedom Institute, a non-profit, non-partisan public policy organization dedicated to protecting the constitutional rights of all Americans.

Election Reform: Sacrificed for War?

By Ron Walters

There was much recent celebration in the U.S. House and Senate that an election reform bill is headed to the White House for George Bush's signature.

Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) and a task force headed by NAACP Washington bureau chief Hilary Shelton should be given considerable credit for shaping many of the issues that led to the bill. In addition, the Congressional Black Caucus itself held three hearings around the country on this issue to surface many such issues.

The core of the bill is three fold. First, it sets up a permanent Election Administration Commission, to monitor election system procedures and provide \$3.9 billion in grants to states over a two year period to improve them. Second, in order to get the money states must present a plan showing

that they have adopted minimum standards for the administration of election systems. Third, a foundation will be established to engage young people, college and high school students and to work polling stations. This is a great way to compliment many older workers who volunteer but cannot work two shifts, and to train young people in the democratic process at the same time.

One of these issues, guarding against voter fraud, was a trade-off to get Republican support and will mean that voters will have to present some form of valid identification when they go to the polls. This was opposed by black and Hispanic civil rights groups who say this provision could be administered in a discriminatory manner. Democrats also accepted the Republican insistence on protecting the voting rights of military personnel who use absentee ballots.

In any case, the question is: Since the measure will probably be signed by Bush, will he restore funding for it in this fiscal year? The President has taken \$400 million set aside for this purpose and diverted it to fund military and security activities his administration has promoted.

Most of what will happen to election reform will take place in the period leading up to the 2004 elections, when many of those who were locked out of the process in 2000 and their leaders will have an opportunity to impact the process. It's about understanding the law, demanding that elected officials be accountable to the process and monitoring what actions are taken by the secretaries of state and other key election officials.

Ron Walters is Distinguished Leadership Scholar, and professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland.

Sniper: Sitting in the Bull's Eye

By Bill Fletcher Jr.

Perhaps by the time this column is published the maniac sniper terrorizing the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area will have been captured. I certainly hope so.

The sense of insecurity that has gripped this country since Sept. 11, 2001, has been the subject of countless talk shows, books and psychobabble. The Sept. 11 terror attacks; the anthrax murders that followed; the ever present threats and warnings of further terror attacks; the possibility of an illegal U.S. war against Iraq and its possible consequences...and now the suburban Washington sniper. Yet the question I keep asking myself

is whether this insecurity—which is far from a new experience for African-Americans—will awaken the people of the USA to the insecurity that billions of people on this planet face; insecurity often the result of policies and actions by the United States.

I wonder about how Central and South Americans have felt about death squads, often trained by U.S. intelligence agencies or mercenaries, which would regularly "disappear" political opponents, or even someone they happened not to like. I have wondered about the insecurity felt by Rwandan Tutsis when suddenly they found themselves victims of their former Hutu friends and colleagues during the infamous

genocide.

Don't get me wrong. I am not minimizing the suburban Washington sniper. Rather I am suggesting that the time has come for the people of the United States to recognize that security is not and cannot be reserved for our citizens alone. It must actually be a human right.

In order for personal security to be a human right, however, we must take responsibility for the policies that our government pursues which ensure insecurity internally and globally.

Bill Fletcher Jr. is a long-time labor movement activist who is currently the president of TransAfrica Forum.

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STUDY: LOW INCOME LOANS ARE A SAFE BET

WASHINGTON — "Community investing" loans for housing, child care and small businesses in economically disadvantaged markets such as North Camden, N.J. are as safe as loans in higher-income "conventional" markets, according to a new National Community Capital Association (NCCA) study released recently by the Community Investing Program of the Social Investment Forum Foundation and Co-op America.

The NCCA study reports on almost \$4 billion of financing by 107 community development financial institutions (CDFIs) in distressed urban and rural markets across the United States. The findings indicate that loan portfolios with high-perceived risk had net charge-offs of 0.5 percent which compares favorably to 0.9 percent for all commercial banks, and 0.5 percent for commercial banks with less than \$100 million in assets.

National Community Capital Association CEO Mark Pinsky said: "These data up-end the conventional wisdom that community investing loans to low-income people and the businesses that serve them carry high risks. The facts speak for themselves."

Social Investment Forum Community Investing Chair and Self-Help Credit Union Vice President Deborah Momen-Hudson said: "We now have persuasive and powerful evidence that there is no justifiable reason for banks and other institutional players to keep sitting on the sidelines when it comes to community investing."

Joining NCCA and the Social Investment Forum to announce the new study findings is Jane Henderson, director of community development of Wachovia Corporation. Henderson said: "Since a significant portion of the U.S. population is located in low to moderate-income communities, not pursuing such business would be a missed opportunity for us."

In 2001, Wachovia Corporation invested \$19 billion in the low- and moderate-income communities in their markets. This capital took the form of small business loans, mortgage loans, real estate loans to construct affordable housing, retail centers and office buildings, working capital loans to purveyors of community services, and equity funding of community development venture capital firms.

HMFA commits \$3.9M to Hill Manor/Scudder Homes mixed income housing program

NEWARK — The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA) recently committed \$3.9 million in financing and subsidy through its Urban Home Ownership Recovery Program (UHOP) Phase XI for the construction of Hill Manor/Scudder Homes, which will offer 72 newly constructed two- and four-bedroom homes in Newark.

"The goal of UHOP is to encourage mixed income, owner occupied housing growth and to stabilize the state's urban neighborhoods," Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Susan Bass Levin said. "In partnering with pri-

rate lenders we are able to leverage additional resources to create affordable housing opportunities for all of New Jersey's families."

The project is a collaborative effort sponsored by St. James AME Church in Newark and the Landex Corporation. The homes, which will sell from \$65,000 to \$135,000, are designated for sale to families who meet income requirements and will provide a mixture of low-income, 28 moderate-income, subsidized market rate homes and unrestricted market rate homes. Total development costs for the project are \$14.9 million and is part of the larger

Newark Housing Authority's HOPE VI Grant for the construction of 755 units of mixed-income, mixed-tenure, and mixed-financed housing on the former Stella Wright, Hayes Homes and Hill Manor/Scudder Homes sites.

The HMFA also awarded UHOP financing to similar projects in Neptune, Bridgeton, and Trenton. HMFA also offers 100 percent financing mortgages to qualified homebuyers purchasing a home in any of the developments approved in UHOP Phase XI. For more information go to: www.state.nj.us/dca/hmfa/singfam/uhorp.htm.

HUD: Minority home buying spurs economy

WASHINGTON — President Bush's goal of expanding minority homeownership by 5.5 million families will stimulate an additional \$256 billion in benefits to the U.S. economy, according to a new report released today by Housing and Urban Development Secretary Mel Martinez. The HUD report, Economic Benefits of Increasing Minority Homeownership, was released today at the White House Conference on Increasing Minority Homeownership in Washington.

In June, President Bush announced his goal to help increase minority homeownership by 5.5 million by the end of the decade in an effort to close the so-called "homeownership gap." This gap shows minority families continue to significantly lag behind the nation's homeownership rate. Despite increases in minority homeownership during the 1990s, less than half of African-American and Hispanic families own their own home while 74.3 percent of non-Hispanic whites are homeowners.

"President Bush's goal of opening the doors of the American Dream to more families will transform lives on so many levels," said Martinez. "When people own their own homes, they not only build their own futures, they transform entire communities in ways that have enormous social and economic benefits to all Americans."

Based on latest Census and other economic statistics, HUD's report indicates that homeownership not only serves as a source of stability for families and communities but also provides the foundation for many Americans' financial security. In addition to adding to personal wealth, owning a home also creates

jobs in the construction trades and benefits businesses that sell home improvement and other housing-related goods and services.

Perhaps the largest societal benefit of increasing homeownership is seen in the millions of jobs it creates for American workers. For example, building 1,000 single-family homes creates 2,448 full-time jobs. Approximately 40 percent of these jobs are on-site construction work; another 27 percent involve employment in transportation, trade, and other locally based services. Additional jobs are created to meet the increase in demand for household goods and services.

Studies have found that families who buy a new home spend more in the first year of occupancy than non-moving owners or renters. Personal spending for decorating, landscaping, dining out, etc., is higher than similarly situated households who have not moved. According to HUD's report, increasing minority homeownership by 5.5 million would directly increase spending on home improvements, appliances, and furnishings by almost \$36 billion.

According to the Census Bureau, 21 percent of the nation's wealth is held in the form of home equity. Over time, purchasing a home has proven to be an effective wealth building strategy for millions of Americans. In addition, few sources of revenue contribute more to the health and economic security of state and local governments than the residential property tax. Coupled with transfer taxes on deeds and mortgages, these revenues contribute a tremendous amount to the fiscal health of state and local governments. Minority homeownership will add to state and local tax revenues.

NJ Transit, two local firms honored by PA

NEW YORK — Port Authority Chief Engineer Frank Lombardi was among seven construction and transportation industry leaders honored by the Regional Alliance for Small Contractors at its award luncheon at the New York Hilton Towers last Monday. Mr. Lombardi received the Industry Leader of the Year Award.

Mr. Lombardi, of Howard Beach, N.Y., played an extraordinary leadership role on September 11, 2001, and in the unprecedented recovery and rebuilding that continue to the present day. Despite being buried in the rubble of 2 World Trade Center after its collapse, Mr. Lombardi helped rescue efforts. Within hours he was at the Port Authority Emergency Operations Center in Jersey City, where he and others worked around the clock to restore vital transportation services and oversee the rescue

and recovery efforts. He is currently applying his extensive experience in a prominent role in the renaissance of Lower Manhattan.

"All of the honorees are being recognized for their outstanding dedication and support more of the Regional Alliance over past years," said Earle L. Walker, the Regional Alliance's Executive Director.

Two New Jersey residents were among the seven honorees at the luncheon: Eduardo L. Irigaray of Scotch Plains, N.J., President of S&J Electric Contractors who received the Contractor of the Year Award, and Bennie Hadnott, MBA, CPA, of Teaneck, N.J., Managing Partner, Watson & Rice.

LLP, who will receive the Volunteer of the Year Award. In addition, transportation giant NJ Transit, received the Public Partner of the Year Award.

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Rehabilitation offers tips on preventing back injuries and Pain

Most people will experience some back pain at least once in their lives. Whether it is lifting a heavy or light item the wrong way, shoveling too much snow, or sitting in an uncomfortable position at work

for too long, back pain can affect all of us and make us miserable.

The good news is that there are simple steps you can take to prevent back injury and back pain. And if you are unlucky enough to hurt your back, treatment is available.

"The most common cause of low back pain is postural stress. When the natural inward curve of the low back is lost, a strain is placed on the lumbar spine," according to Anup Dhage, PT, a physical therapist with the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. "Low

back pain can occur when the joint between two bones has been placed in a position that over stretches the surrounding soft tissues. If you ignore the warning and continue to over stretch the tissue, damage will occur."

Prolonged over stretching of ligaments and other surrounding soft tissues causes most low back pain. The pain is common and often results from bad posture habits. It is important to know when you are having pain or straining your back. If you stop over stretching the tissue immediately, you can avoid lasting problems.

More serious back prob-

lems can occur when the ligament surrounding the disc is injured to such an extent that the disc loses its ability to absorb shock and its outer wall is weakened.

This causes the fluid inside of the disc to bulge outward and, in extreme cases burst. When the disc bulges, or bursts, it may press painfully on the sciatic nerve. The disc may become so distorted that it blocks the back from moving. Some people feel a sudden onset of pain and following this are unable to straighten up or move.

After an injury the tissues heal and form a scar. Scar tissue is less elastic and tends to shorten, causing decreased flexibility. Exercise must be performed to restore normal flexibility and prevent recurring pain due to stiffness.

Several simple lifestyle changes can help all of us avoid nagging back pain and injuries. In fact, these changes can help us enjoy healthier lives. To avoid back pain, you can: Exercise (stretch and strengthen) Eat a balanced diet, Avoid prolonged postures, change posture regularly (e.g. when sitting for prolonged periods, stand and slowly bend backwards five or six times and walk for a few minutes; when working in a stooped or bent

posture, stand upright and slowly bend backwards five to six times).

One of the most important things you can do to protect yourself from back injury is to use proper lifting techniques at work or home.

Always ask for help when lifting. Push, do not pull, carts or other movable devices.

People suffering from back pain are often referred by their doctors to physical therapists for treatment. Physical therapists are trained to evaluate and treat low back pain. Treatment depends on the cause of the low back pain. Physical therapists can educate patients about proper posture, exercise, and ergonomics (the study of people in their working environment).

In addition, therapists are trained in the use of therapies such as cold, heat, ultrasound and electrical stimulation to alleviate some of the symptoms of low back pain, and prevent recurring symptoms.

For more information contact Newark Beth Israel Medical Center's Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at 973-926-7245. They offer a full range of comprehensive services for children and adults to meet their specific needs.

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New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey,
Dina Matos McGreevey and their daughter, Jacqueline.



Health Briefs

St. James Hospital receives \$10,000 grant

St. James Hospital in Newark's Ironbound section received \$10,000 grant from the Joseph B. Fernandes Memorial Trust I to be used toward the creation of a premature newborn unit.

"The addition to better serve its young, immigrant community," says Ceu Cirne-Neves, administrator of St. James Hospital. The hospital received state approval to implement a Special Care Nursery based on community need.

The new unit will complete the comprehensive services offered in the BirthPlace at St. James, which offers spacious birthing suites, central monitoring equipment, and the latest in anesthesia services. For more information call 973-589-1300.

Willow Creek Care Center residents seek investigation

Assemblyman Chivukula recently held a press conference to report on concerns about Willow Creek Care Center in Somerset and its corporate parent. Residents voiced their concerns about understaffing, patient care violations, poor working conditions and other problems at Willow Creek including the home's unusual ownership by Venture Capitalists.

Willow Creek is owned and operated by Brandywine Senior Care, Inc. a mid-sized network of non-acute healthcare services including assisted living facilities, home health agencies, and nursing homes.

Actress Phylicia Rashad speaks at free diabetes screening

Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck will host a Diabetes Awareness Program on Saturday November 9, with special guest actress Phylicia Rashad.

The program will include a free diabetes screening and continental breakfast at The Marriott Glenpointe Hotel. The featured speaker, Phylicia Rashad will share true-life stories of how her life and family were impacted by diabetes. For more information call 201-833-3186.

Profiling

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

responsive and responsible public agency."

Additionally under the proposed measure, police officers who violate an individual's civil rights based on race, color or national origin would face criminal charges.

The problem of racial profiling came to the forefront after the 1998 State Police shooting of three minority men on the New Jersey Turnpike. The troopers involved pleaded guilty to official misconduct and giving false statements.

"While racial profiling may not be as prevalent as it once was, it is still a problem that erodes the minority community's confidence in our state's law enforcement system," said Johnson (D-Bergen), an undersheriff in the Bergen County Sheriff's Department. "By officially outlawing the practice, we send a message that we will no longer tolerate such inexcusable behavior."

According to an analysis of State Police traffic stop data compiled between November 2001 and April 2002, African-Americans were involved in 23.1 percent of Turnpike traffic stops although they constitute only 12.5 percent of the motorists using that highway.

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee released the committee substitute 4-0-2. The measure was scheduled for a floor vote in the Assembly on Thursday.

The committee also released bills dealing with racial profiling that would require quarterly studies of every State Police motor vehicle stop; create an Independent Prosecutor to investigate State Police misconduct; and require State Police to maintain and make available certain records for at least seven years.

Ministers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

our families.

On racial profiling, Senator Lautenberg introduced the first major bill to address racial profiling by police officers, working to end infringement on the civil rights of minorities.

On prescription drugs, Senator Lautenberg is committed to creating a prescription drug benefit under Medicare, so our seniors can get the quality medication they deserve.

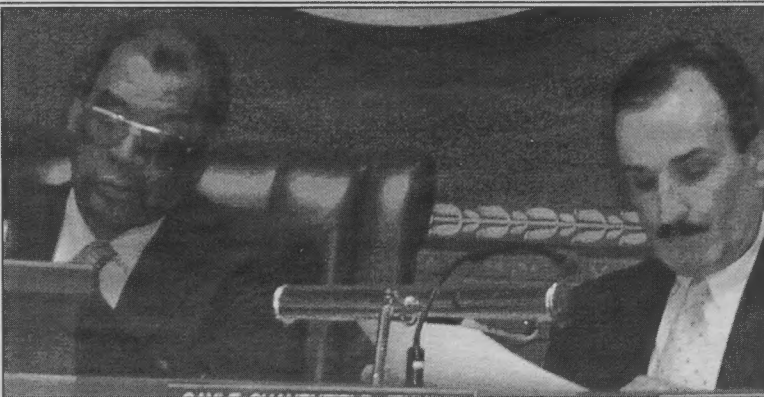
Senator Lautenberg has spent a career dedicated to improving the lives of all of our citizens, particularly families in our urban areas. His opponent, Douglas Forrester, has revealed a lack of understanding about the issues facing our cities and has even stated he dislikes one of our largest urban areas, Atlantic City.

"Mr. Forrester, when you're a United States Senator, you cannot categorically choose what city in the state of New Jersey you like or dislike. I have worked with urban cities across this great state. Whether it was securing HOPE VI funding, or funding for the wiring of schools, or establishing a program to make public housing safer and more secure, I never once selectively decided which city I liked and which I didn't. Because that's not what a United States Senator should do. I am pleased and proud to join these ministers here as they endorse my candidacy for the United States Senate."

The two candidates held their first debate last week, and focused on gun control. The Forrester team have generated national interest over the debate, and have defined the campaign issues as, "Health care. Education. Environment. Defense. Civil liberties. Homeland security."

Arena project gets new lease on life from Newark Liberty airport agreements

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



CN Photo by Scheryl Gant

Newark City Council President and South Ward Council Member Donald Bradley, (l) and Augusto Amador, East Ward Council Member, read handouts during the arena, Port Authority press briefing.

was the latest development in the roller coaster events surrounding the question of locating the arena in Newark. Those discussions have spanned the administration of four governors, who all supported the idea, but were unable to secure concrete backing in the legislature.

The lions share of the funding — \$165 million will come from a portion of the new 63-year PA lease for Newark Liberty International Airport. Mayor James said securing the lease at this time was critical because of the impending threat of war, which will severely cripple the airlines industry if America launches a pre-emptive strike against Iraq. Under the negotiated agreement Newark will settle a portion of a longstanding monetary dispute with the PA.

The action averted the most dire fiscal crisis that Newark had faced in recent years, according to Council President

Donald Bradley. "Yesterday Newark faced massive layoffs, increased property taxes, less state aid, the potential loss of revalue incentives and much more in services to our residents including public safety and health and human services," Bradley said.

As a result of the Port Authority deal the Newark faced immediate police, fire and other personnel layoffs; reduced city services; a tax increase; and a freeze on major new projects. Council member Hector Comacho, a former police officer, said he had agonized over his decision for weeks, but knows that reducing the number of police on the street at this time would be a tremendous throwback in time for Newark.

The budget shortfall stemmed from September 11, 2001 disaster and increased domestic terrorists defense costs, corporate economic downturn, pension losses, lower municipal collec-

tion rates, board of education demands and Essex County tax increase, according to a City Council document.

Mayor James said "if all goes well" ground breaking on the project will begin in the spring of 2003. The project will take between 24 and 30 months to complete, according to the Mayor. The city will still have to finance \$35 million for infrastructure improvements to the proposed arena site, and may issue municipal bonds to raise the money. James, a consummate fundraiser, says he is also seeking private donations to finance the project, which has come under heavy fire from community leaders and legislators from non urban communities throughout the state.

The City of Newark will ask the New Jersey Redevelopment Authority to represent the City in negotiating and executing an agreement with the YankeeNets Development to build the arena.

Brilliant NJ star's life radiates, even in fatal Beltway sniper assault

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MATAH Network in 1997. The two Wharton grads had refocused their efforts from succeeding in corporate America to developing a mechanism to educate and facilitate people about the importance of redirecting black spending power back into African American communities.

City News President and CEO Henry C. Johnson was among the thousands of people across the nation who remembered Bridges as an inspired leader who was committed to enhancing the lives of people of African descent. "This is a tragedy that hits all of us who knew Ken, and a terrible shocking end for someone who always tried to be so positive, so visionary, and so helpful for

everyone," Johnson said. Johnson is also the president of the Northern New Jersey Black Chamber of Commerce, which also supports economic development.

In Germantown, where Bridges lived, neighbors remember him as a Christian man, and a loving husband and father who would play basketball with his six children who range from ages 12 to 24. He was the old-fashioned type of neighbor who would welcome newcomers on the block with a basket of homemade chocolate cupcakes.

Ted Bryant, of Pleasantville, says Bridges was an extraordinary individual when they were football team mates at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan.

Bryant and Bridges reunited last year at a MATAH convention held in Atlantic City. Bryant says the years had not changed his energetic friend who had walked to the beat of a different drummer from childhood. When they met after being apart for years, Bryant said Bridges recognized him immediately and embraced him.

"Ken's funeral was spiritual. It represented him as an African American, and what he felt about his race," Bryant said. "The memorial service was illuminating." Bridges is the Coordinator of the New Jersey Youth Corp, and a member of the Pleasantville Board of Education. Bryant says those

who eulogized Bridges spoke of him "Crossing over to be with Medgar and the other ancestors, and how his mission has gone to another level." "He was a genuine brother," Bryant said. His (Ken's) brother spoke of how Ken was different even as a child, and that no one understood him. He has always functioned on another level. His vision had moved him into a spirituality."

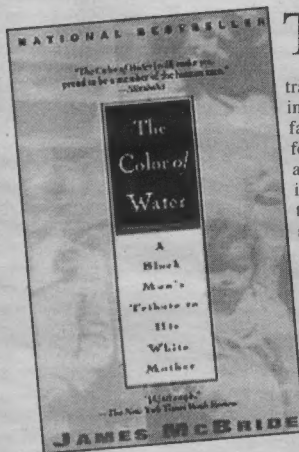
"You could even see how his spirit embellished his home, his work, his community. That's the mission he had been on since he was a child," Bryant ended his comments by letting out the type of "whew" that people use when they are amazed.

Mrs. Jocelyn Bridges says

she is convinced that something good will come out of her husband's tragic slaying. One of their sons said in an honorable lament to his father, "If I could be just half the man he was, I know I'll be a great man."

One of the Bridges' daughter told the media that her father touched everyone he met, and that the only way her father can be dead is if his company dies with him. For information on MATAH visit their website at www.matah.com.

Mrs. Bridges has asked that in lieu of flowers contributions be made to a general fund for their children. Checks can sent to: Jocelyn Bridges, and mailed in care of Gregory B. Montgomery Esq., P.O. Box 753, Lawnside, NJ 08045.



The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother

transcended in these interwoven histories by family love, the sheer force of a mother's will and her unshakable insistence that only two things really mattered: school and church... The two stories, son's and mother's, beautifully juxtaposed, strike a graceful note at a time of racial polarization.

— New York Times Book Review

James McBride's powerful memoir, *The Color of Water*, was a publishing phenomenon, spending more than two years on the New York Times bestseller list and becoming required reading in high schools and colleges across the country.

Who is Ruth McBride Jordan? A self-declared "light-skinned" woman evasive about her ethnicity, yet steadfast in her love for her twelve black children. James McBride, journalist, musician and son, explores his mother's past, as well as his own upbringing and heritage, in a

The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother
Written By: James McBride

Published by Riverhead Books, New York

poignant and powerful debut, *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*.

The son of a black minister and a woman who would not admit she was white, James McBride grew up in "orchestrated chaos" with his eleven siblings in the poor, all-black projects of Red Hook, Brooklyn. "Mommy," a fiercely protective woman with "dark eyes fall of pep and fire," herded her brood to Manhattan's free cultural events, sent them off on buses to the best (and mainly Jewish) schools, demanded good grades and commanded respect. As a young man, McBride saw his mother as a source of embarrassment, worry, and confusion and reached thirty before he began to discover the truth about her early life and long buried pain.

In *The Color of Water*, McBride retraces his mother's footsteps and, through her searing and spirited voice, recreates her remarkable story.

The daughter of a failed itinerant Orthodox rabbi, she was born Rachel Shilsky (actually Ruche) Dwara Zylska in Poland on April 1, 1921. Fleeing pogroms, her family emigrated to America and ultimately settled in Suffolk, Virginia, a small town where anti-semitism and racial tensions ran high. With candor and immediacy, Ruth describes her parents' loveless marriage; her fragile, handicapped mother; her cruel, sexually abusive father; and the rest of the family and life she abandoned.

At seventeen, after fleeing Virginia and settling in New York City, Ruth married a black minister and founded the all-black New Brown Memorial Baptist Church in her Red Hook living room. "God is the color of water," Ruth McBride taught her children, firmly convinced that life's blessings and life's values transcend race. Twice widowed,

and continually confronting overwhelming adversity and racism, Ruth's determination, drive and discipline saw her dozen children through college and most through graduate school. At age 65, she herself received a degree in social work from Temple University.

Interspersed throughout his mother's compelling narrative, McBride shares candid recollections of his own experiences as a mixed-race child of poverty, his flirtations with drugs and violence, and his eventual self-realization and professional success.

The Color of Water touches readers of all colors as a vivid portrait of growing up, a haunting meditation on race and identity, and a lyrical valentine to a mother from her son.

James McBride is an award-winning writer and composer. McBride is a former staff writer for The Washington Post, People Magazine and The Boston Globe. He received a Masters in Journalism from Columbia University at age 22 and holds a Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters from Whitman College. He lives in Pennsylvania.

"James McBride evokes his childhood trek across the great racial divide with the kind of power and grace that touches and uplifts all hearts."

— Author Bebe Moore Campbell

"Complex and moving... suffused with issues of race, religion and identity. Yet those issues, so much a part of their lives and stories, are not central. The triumph of the book and of their lives is that race and religion are

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Are you the real, authentic African American family?

If so, Family Digest Magazine is looking for you

Family Digest Magazine, the premiere national magazine for the African American family, is launching an essay/photo contest to look for the "real" families that represent everything that it strives to achieve in its pages for its readers: Smarter, Healthier, Happier Black families. The magazine often features celebrities and national figures, but the publisher feels it's just as important to shine the spotlight on the people who are holding it all together and making the ideals of the magazine really work in their daily lives.

Hundreds of entries have already been rolling into the magazine's headquarters but there's still time for other families to join in on the fun. Applicants have until December 31 to send in a photo of their family as well as an essay saying why their family deserves to be the Family Digest "Family of the Year." The essay must also touch on how their family deals with child rearing, education, family relationships, challenges, values, family time, home life and health maintenance. A panel of editors at the magazine will choose four winning entries, plus runners up. The winning families will be announced by March 15th. The family will then be interviewed by publisher and founder Darryl Mobley and take part in a photo shoot, all of which will appear in the summer 2003 issue. In addition, the runners up will all receive valuable prizes from many of the major national advertisers appearing in the magazine.

"I founded the magazine over five years ago with the idea of promoting Smarter, Healthier and Happier Black Families," said Darryl Mobley. "Over the years, we've featured celebrities and others who are creating the types of family lives that we can all strive to achieve. But, I feel strongly that it is time we featured families in each issue that represent our readers the "real" people who are living our mission the people who are bringing our pages to life in their daily lives. These are the real heroes of the African American family's renaissance. Our readers can look at these real families and realize that they too can make it work without the benefit of celebrity. I am very excited about this search to find these families and to then let the world know that they exist."

To take part in the contest, families can send essays of no more than 750 words, explaining why their family should be the Family Digest "Family of the Year." Essays should detail how their family deals with important issues of education, values, relationship, family time, child rearing and health and send it with a family photo of any size to: Family Digest "Family of the Year" contest, P.O. Box 3368, Danville, CA 94526 by December 31, 2002. Essays will be judged on expressiveness, creativity, and the quality of the essay. Look for more information in issues of Family Digest magazine.

Experience the spirit of West Africa

NEW BRUNSWICK — Senegal's most famous and well traveled company, The National Ballet of Senegal, combines the rapid fire staccato of pulsating drums with dazzling high energy choreography, airborne acrobatics, amazing stilt dancing, swaying costumes, and colorful masks to create a thrilling cultural tapestry. Their brand new show, Kuuyamba, is a breathtaking celebration of rhythm, colors, West African rituals, and the magnificence of percussion. This magnificent event will be performed at New Brunswick's State Theatre on Friday, November 15, at 8pm.

Kuuyamba derived from the Mandingue culture. It is the second sojourn into the sacred forest where the initiation from adolescence into adulthood is achieved through rhythm, dance, and song to bring back to life the beauty and the freedom of the body. Each dance in this program is representative of this ritual, exploring the relationships man forges with the heavens, the rhythm of life, and his body, while honoring traditions like marriage and harvest time.

Kuuyamba is composed of three parts, the Sama, the



Djigui, and the Silimbo. The Sama is a dance to sacred songs by those being initiated. They invoke the spirits and ask the permission of the gods to perform the Silimbo. During the Djigui, the chief of the village, or the Alcali, comes out after speaking with the spirits and announces the good news: the spirits have given their approval and the Silimbo will take place. The third step, the actual performance of the Silimbo, then takes shape.

The performance then breaks into eight sections of the Silimbo celebration including, among other things, two beautiful musical interludes on instruments native to West African culture the Kora, a kind of harp

with 21 strings made from a large gourd known for its soft sonorities, the Balafon Dalinke, a xylophone like instrument resembling the marimba used to greet the King and Queen in their palace, and the Dan, a traditional stringed instrument from the Tambacunda region that was only played by men who have already been initiated.

The National Ballet of Senegal is a troupe of amazingly beautiful dancers who are not so much presenting a dance as they are sharing their culture and traditions with the audience. Tickets for this performance is currently on sale. For ticket information, call 732-246-7469.

WBGO Gallery showcase exhibit of jazz greatest musicians

Newark — The WBGO Art Gallery, located in the Jazz88 Studios on 54 Park Place in Newark, will showcase an exhibition of photographs by veteran photographer Roy DeCarava and emerging photographer Wendy DeCarava, Roy's daughter, from September 12 through November 15, 2002.

The photographs include many well known performers from the classic and contemporary periods of jazz. Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday, Wynton Marsalis, Milt Jackson, Duke Ellington, Jimmy Scott and Buster Williams, among others.



Roy DeCarava is a Distinguished Professor of Art at Hunter College, City University of New York. He has exhibited his work at major museums including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, The Art Institute of Chicago, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and

many art institutions in the U.S. and abroad.

He is the author of five books. He co-authored with poet Langston Hughes, The Sweet Flypaper of Life (1955), an award winning pictorial fiction about the lives of people in Harlem. His most recent book is called The Sound I Saw.

Wendy DeCarava graduated from Mills College in 1999 with a degree in Fine Arts and Painting. She has since studied in Paris and in Provence, France. She has worked as an art instructor and does freelance editorial work for arts institutions and private clients.

Both Wendy and Roy have developed a deep respect for jazz and have done significant work exploring the cultural value of jazz through photography. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the artwork will benefit programming at Jazz88.3 FM.

For further information on the Gallery exhibit call -973-624-8880 or log onto www.wbgo.org.



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Jackass: The Movie

Johnny Knoxville and his crew of crazies take the concept of the MTV show "Jackass". A bunch of guys doing dangerous and disturbing stunts just to see what happens and turns it into a movie, where they can get away with more than they could on TV, including a climactic stunt of immense insanity.



Rated R

Paid in full

Harlem, NY, 1986. From behind the counter of the dry cleaner where he works, Ace (Wood Harris) longingly covets the expensive cars and flashy clothes of his friends, Mitch (Mekhi Phifer) and Calvin (Kevin Carroll). But with a chance encounter, Ace's world is about to dramatically change. On a rou-



tine laundry drop-off, Ace meets Lulu (Esai Morales), whose apartment and elaborate jewelry hint at a life of luxury. Ace is quickly lured into the seductive world of drug dealing, where the easy money affords him a position of power in the illicit underworld. But as his friends and family become pawns and victims, Ace realizes that he must pay a high price for his growing success.

Rated R

The Truth About Charlie

A young woman (Thandie Newton) in Paris is about to divorce her husband when she discovers... he's dead; and all their money is gone. She meets a mysterious man (Mark Wahlberg), who tells her that the money was really his, and he wants it back, seemingly convinced that she's hiding the cash. Meanwhile, more people end up dead.



Rated PG-13



All or nothing

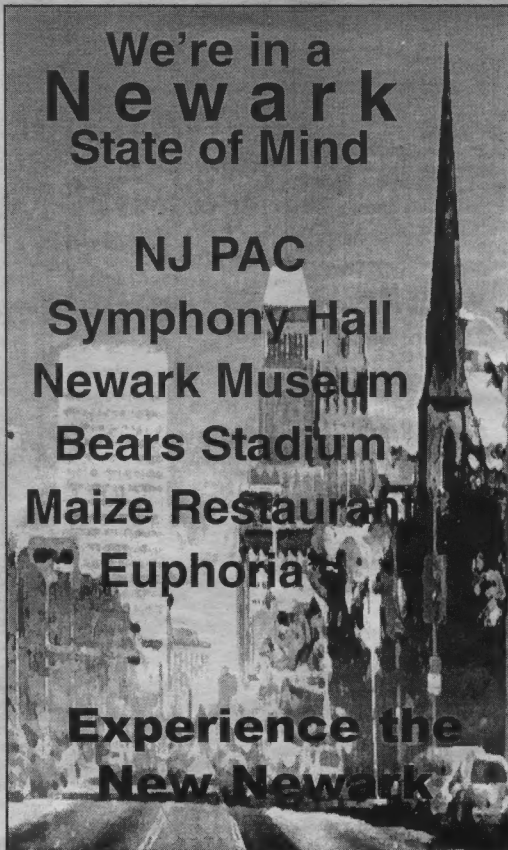
Set in a London working-class housing estate over a long weekend, it tells the story of Penny's love for her partner, taxi-driver Phil, has run dry. He is a gentle, philosophical guy and she works on the checkout at a supermarket. Their daughter Rachel cleans a home for elderly people, and their son Rory is unemployed and aggressive. The joy has gone out of Phil and Penny's life, but when an unexpected tragedy occurs, they are brought together to rediscover their love. **Rated R**

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The Director of Purchasing at Montclair State University, College Hall, Room C318D/Montclair State University, Upper Montclair, New Jersey 07043, will receive bids for:

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 until 2:00 p.m. Monday, November 18, 2002 in the Finance and Business Operations Conference Room, College Hall, Room 306, Montclair State University, Upper Montclair, New Jersey 07043. Attendance at the pre-bid meeting is a requirement of all prospective bidders.

The project will consist of constructing a new softball stadium on an existing field, which field an existing temporary softball field. The new stadium will hold approximately 250 seats made of bleachers type and stadium molded seats. The stadium will contain a press box, locker rooms, toilets, storage and concession area. The stadium will only be used in the spring and summer months and will not be winterized. The construction for the main structures will be concrete masonry units with a stucco cementitious finish coat. The roof will be standing seam, with metal deck and structural cold rolled joist system. In addition, the field will be artificial and properly drained. Copies of the proposal, including information for bidders, bidding forms, and specifications may be obtained on or about October 21, 2002 at the office of the Director of Purchasing, College Hall, room C318D for an non-refundable fee of \$75.00. Requests for additional information may be directed to John Gosinski, Buyer, at (973) 655-7468. Payments for bid packages and specifications shall be made by cash, check, money order or credit card (Discover, MasterCard and Visa only) payable to "Montclair State University" at the Cash Control Office, College Hall, room 715. Bid packages will not be mailed. Any award of contract resulting from this Request for Proposal will be subject to the availability of funds. All proposals must be delivered or mailed. Electronic bids via fax or telephone will not be accepted. Bids must be enclosed in a sealed envelope/package bearing the name of the bidder and clearly marked "RFP 392 - Women's Softball Stadium. Deadline for bidder's questions is Tuesday, November 12, 2002 4:30 p.m.

Qualifications: Contractors and Subcontractors must be classified by the Division of Property Management and Construction and licensed under the provisions of the New Jersey State construction code and shall be certified as a State of New Jersey Public Works Contractor.

Bidders shall include in their bid information about all Subcontractors to be used on this project as outlined in the bid documents. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a Guarantee payable to Montclair State University that if a contract is awarded, the bidder shall enter into contract, and shall furnish a Performance Bond (100%) and a Labor and Material Bond (100%). The Proposal Guarantee shall be in the amount of ten (10) percent and shall be given, at the option of the bidder, by certified check, cashier's check or bid bond. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the scheduled date and time of the bid opening. Montclair State University reserves the right to waive any informatics in any proposal and to reject any or all proposals. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, C. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27) (Affirmative Action), State of New Jersey Prevailing Wage Rate Act and the Provisions entitled: "Minority and Local Subcontractor participation in the State Design and Construction Contracts," pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:24-1 et. seq. and N.J.A.C. 17:25-2.2 (P.L. 1977, Chapter 33 "Statement of Stockholders Exceeding 100%"). Failure to do so shall result in disqualification of the bid. Montclair State University is an Equal Opportunity Purchaser.

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The Purchasing Department at Montclair State University will host a Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise Vendor Fair on Thursday, October 31, 2002 from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Student Center Ballrooms. Certified Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises wishing to participate in the Vendor Fair should contact: Deborah Montclair Vendor Fair Coordinator, at (973) 655-4365 or via fax at (973) 655-4365. (Space is limited.)

We also extend an invitation to attend this event to Purchasing Representatives within the Federal, State, County, Municipal and Corporate frameworks. There will be refreshments, door prizes, giveaways, entertainment and lots of surprises! We look forward to seeing each and every one of you on Thursday, October 31, 2002.

ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES:

The Asbury Park Public Housing Authority invites qualified licensed A/E firms to submit qualifications and proposals for consideration in providing the PHA with A/E services necessary in determining specifications for concrete sidewalk and patio repairs at various Housing Authority sites. Interested A/E firms should call Geoffrey Melvin, Maintenance Supervisor at 372/774-2660 ext. 19 for an appointment to inspect the sites and get details of the scope, and specifications of required repairs. Responses will be accepted through October 31st 2002 at the Asbury Park Public Housing Authority, 1000 1/2 Third Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712.

\$7.35

ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES:

The Asbury Park Public Housing Authority invites qualified licensed A/E firms to submit qualifications and proposals for consideration in providing the PHA with A/E services necessary in determining specifications for new shingle roofing at Lincoln Village located on Memorial Drive, Asbury Park. Interested A/E firms should call Geoffrey Melvin, Maintenance Supervisor at 372/774-2660 ext. 19 for an appointment to inspect the sites and get details of the scope, and specifications for required repairs. Responses will be accepted through October 31st 2002 at the Asbury Park Public Housing Authority, 1000 1/2 Third Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712.

\$7.35

INVITATION FOR BIDS

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF MORRIS

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY will receive sealed bids for "Turnover Painting" at Morris Mews/Congregate Senior Citizen Complex, India Brook Village Senior Citizen Complex, Pleasant View Village Senior Citizen Complex, Bennett Avenue Family Housing Complex and Greenpond Village Family Housing Complex and "Cycle Painting" at Congregate Living Senior Complex at 10:00 AM on Thursday, November 21, 2002 at the office of the Housing Authority County of Morris, 99 Ketch Road, Morristown, New Jersey, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids must be submitted in person in a SEALED ENVELOPE, addressed to the Housing Authority and clearly marked on the outside with the project name "Turnover and Cycle Painting Bids". All bids shall be presented by the parties bidding or their agents at the designated time and place, not before and not after. No Bids will be received by mail, facsimile transmission or overnight delivery services. Bids received after the indicated delivery time will be rejected and returned.

Copies of the Documents, including Drawings, Technical Specifications and Addenda may be obtained at the office of the Housing Authority County of Morris, 99 Ketch Road, Morristown, NJ 07960 on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. These documents can be picked up in person at this location. A non-refundable check of \$25.00 is required at time of pick up.

Roberta L. Strater, Executive Director
 Housing Authority of the County of Morris
 \$18.37

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY LEGAL SERVICES

The Housing Authority of the County of Morris is seeking proposals from attorney/law firms to serve as legal counsel to the Authority. Proposals should be written to address the following quality/merit factors which shall be used by the Authority to evaluate proposals.

1. Experience as Housing Authority Counsel.
2. Knowledge of Housing Authority and HUD regulations and procedures.
3. Experience with State Public Agencies Law, in particular, Local Public Contracts Laws.
4. Experience with New Jersey and HUD Construction and Bidding Law.
5. Experience in New Jersey and HUD Tenant/Landlord requirements.

Public Housing Management - 247
 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers - 634
 US Rural Development 515/Section 8 - 101
 US Rural Development Congregate Housing - 19

Period of Services is January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003.

Proposals must be submitted to the address below and must be received no later than 4:30 PM on Friday, November 1, 2002.

Roberta L. Strater, Executive Director
 Housing Authority of the County of Morris
 99 Ketch Rd.
 Morristown, New Jersey 07960

CALLING ALL SALES REPS

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973.642-5444
 or

Advertising@Citynewsnetwork.com

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY AUDITING FIRM

The Housing Authority of the County of Morris is seeking proposals from Financial Accounting firms to Audit the financial records of the Housing Authority for fiscal year ending 12/31/02. Proposals should be written to address the following quality/merit factors which shall be used by the Authority to evaluate proposals:

1. Experience of Auditing firm
2. Knowledge of and experience with HUD public housing regulations and procedures.
3. Knowledge and experience with Rural Development financial requirements.
4. Experience with Financial Audits of Housing Authorities.

Public Housing Management - 247
 Public Housing Development - 57
 Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher - 634
 US Rural Development 515/Section 8 - 101
 US Rural Development Congregate Housing - 19

Proposals must be submitted to the address below and must be received no later than 4:30 PM on Friday, November 1, 2002.

Roberta L. Strater, Executive Director
 Housing Authority of the County of Morris
 99 Ketch Road
 Morristown, NJ 07960

CLASSIFIEDS

New Jersey Department of Education

EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST 1

Workplace Readiness Programs/Science Coordinator

Salary: \$58,010.03-\$80,031.47

Coordinates the development and implementation of the science sections of the statewide assessments, develops and maintains content committees consisting of science educators and works with assessment contractors in developing test content and test materials; communicates with field educators, administrators, and employer groups about the science sections of the assessments. **Qualifications:** Ability to plan and develop curriculum standards and instructional practices to test Development methodologies, knowledge of New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards in Science. **Requirements:** Master's degree in one of the physical sciences, science education, or a related field; or Master's degree and possession of a New Jersey educational certificate. Five years of professional experience in science education. Please forward resumes by **November 1, 2002**. Applications received after closing date will be considered if position is not filled.

For complete job description, please visit:
www.state.nj.us/njdept/genfo/vacancy.htm

Personal Director

New Jersey Department of Education

Reference # N-02-098-004

PO Box 500, Trenton NJ 08625-0500

Resumes may be e-mailed to resumes@doe.state.nj.us

AA/EDE

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&

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1-1/2 months security • Water included

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Calendar

Community

Community movie day "Bargain Tuesdays" at Newark's Screens: On Springfield Ave. See two movies for the price of one. 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. tickets (adults for children), \$4.00, 6:00 p.m. till closing two adults, \$7.00 and two children's tickets, \$4.00. For more info call 973-642-5555.

In celebration of Fire Prevention month, fire officials and firefighters and experts will be on-hand during the month to deliver fire safety and prevention tips to residents. For more info call 973-733-7446.

Woodbridge — The Barron Arts Center is looking for volunteers to help with light office duties and greeting visitors. For more info call 732-634-0413 weekdays between 9:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.

College bound high school students wanting to take the ACT Assessment have two chances to register before the Dec. 14th test date. The test fee is \$25 and \$28 in Florida. Postmark registration deadline is Friday, Nov. 8th. For more info visit the web site, <http://www.act.org>.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

Newark — City will host its Zoning Board Meeting at City Council Chamber at 7:00 p.m. For more info call 973-733-6333.

Eatontown — The Mid-State Arts Resource Team will host a fundraiser for Sharks for the Arts at the Sheraton Hotel at 7:00 p.m. For more info call 732-441-2936.

New Brunswick — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation's annual High School Mock Trial Competition Instructional Workshop will be held at 1:10 p.m. For more info call 1-800-FREE-LAW.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

Newark — Newark Emergency Service for Families Homeless Task Force is sponsoring a Homeless Service Day from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. For more info call 973-643-5727.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Newark — Newark Public Schools will host its 3rd Annual High School Fair at Arts High School, 550 Dr. MLK Jr., Blvd. For more info call 973-733-6767.

Newark — The Greater Essex County Home Buying Fair will be held from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Rutgers Paul Roberson Center, 350 Dr. MLK Jr., Blvd. For more info call 973-623-8311.

Plainfield — Theta Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., is sponsoring a coat/jacket/sweater drive in conjunction with "Make A Difference Day," which occurs on the fourth Saturday in October. Clothing can be dropped off at the Washington Elementary School between 9:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. For more info call 908-964-7948.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

New York — The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Literature will launch The Art of African Women: Empowering Traditions from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. For more info call 212-491-2200.

Business

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Jamesburg — NJ Chamber of Commerce will host an issues breakfast. State Board of Public Utilities President Jeanne Fox will discuss the impact of energy deregulation at Forsgate Country Club from 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. For fees and info call 609-989-7888 or visit <http://www.njchamber.com>.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

Hackensack — Small Business Development center will host a seminar on building and financing your business from 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. For info call 201-447-7841.

Jersey City — New Jersey City University Small Business Development Center will offer a "Next Step" workshop as part of its continuing series of programs. For more info call 201-200-2456.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Cranford — The Union County College Foundation will host its 10th Annual Gala in the Commons on the College's campus at 6:30 p.m. For info call 908-709-7505.

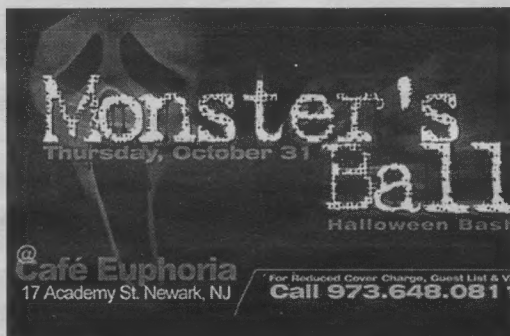
MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

Newark — The Women's Center of Essex County College sponsors Quicken for Professional Financial Management, a 10-session class to be held on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuition is \$97.50, plus a \$15.00 fee. For registration info call 973-877-3395.

Newark — Ron Harris, Founder & CEO of Harris Capital Partners and Metropolitan Baptist Church will sponsor a wealth-building seminar at The Metropolitan Baptist Church Finance Ministry. Sessions are free. For more info call 973-642-2267.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

Newark — The Women's Center of Essex County College sponsors the Adkins Life Skills Program, a six-



Monster's Ball
Thursday, October 31
Halloween Bash
@ Café Euphoria
17 Academy St. Newark, NJ
For Reduced Cover Charge, Guest List & VIP Call 973.648.0811

Newark — NJ Entertainment presents Monster's Ball halloween bash on Thursday October 31 at Café Euphoria. Café Euphoria is located at 17 Academy St. Ladies get in free before 11:00 p.m., \$2.00 drink specials. Come and enjoy the sounds of hip-hop, r&b, classics and reggae & house. Costume is optional, dress to impress. Door opens at 9:00 p.m. For more info call 973-648-0811.

session class on career choices, to be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There is no charge. To register call 973-877-3395.

New Brunswick — Small Business Administration will host Hispanic Entrepreneurs & Small Business Owners Seminar Series topics include Financing Your Business and Marketing Your Business. For more info call 732-745-5050.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

New York — The U.S. Postal Service will offer a Global Marketing Summit at the Direct marketing Association, 1120 Avenue of the Americas to help senior executive expand their business reach. The fee is \$99. To register call 212-790-1500 or visit www.the-dma.org.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

Cranford — The Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education at Union County offers training to become an Oracle Certified Professional. For more info call 908-709-7600.

Heartbeat

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Newark — The WBGO Art Gallery will showcase an exhibition of photographs by veteran photographer Roy De Carava and emerging photographer Wendy De Carava. For more info call 913-624-8880.

New Brunswick — The Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital will hold a blood drive in the Arline & Henry Courtyard for anyone one over the age 18 and in good health. For more info call 732-937-8594.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

New Brunswick — The Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital will host a Stroke Club Support Group. For more info call 732-418-8110.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

New Brunswick — The Cancer Institute of New Jersey will host "Self-Esteem and Intimacy" workshop from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. For more info call 732-235-7557.

Artz

ONGOING

New Jersey's African American Tour Guide, a new, colorful guide listing sites, attractions, museums, and other cultural institutions focusing on African American historic locations and events is available, free of charge from the NJ Commerce & Economic Growth Commission be calling 1-800-VISIT-NJ ext. 2978 or visit online at <http://www.visitnj.org>.

Newark — African Globe presents Music Lab every Friday through Dec. 20th at 7:00 p.m. with special guest DJ's. For more info and to audition, call 973-624-1584.

Newark — NJPAC & WBGO presents Jazz for Teens. Classes will be held on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Lucent Technologies Center for Arts Education, located at 24 Rector St. All students will perform at the final concert in Victoria Theater on May 17, 2003.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

Newark — Roseville Branch Library will host a children's program: Halloween Makeup Fun at 3:30 p.m. Roseville Branch Library. For more info call 973-733-3610.

Newark — The Artist Eric Brown will be making a return visit to Essex County College Art Gallery with an exhibit called "Homeland Security...An American Profile". For more info call 973-877-3208.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

Morristown — The community theater shows its versatility by presenting full-scale theatrical productions throughout the 2002-2003 season. For more info call 973-539-0345.

Plainfield — Community Theater of Central Jersey presents "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf" at Muhlenberg Hospital-Centennial Hall. For more info call 908-561-5520.

Newark — Renaissance Jazz café, presents Jazzin' Friday with various Jazz performers. Showtime is from 7:00 - 11:00 p.m. For more info call 973-623-0002.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Newark — NJPAC presents Apollo Theater Amateur Night at 8:00 p.m. For more info call 1-888-GO-NJPAC.

Newark — African Globe Studios presents an evening of fashion, poetry, and music at 8:00 p.m. Door opens at 7:00 p.m. For more info call 973-624-1584.

Princeton — Union Industrial Home for Children presents Crowns: The Play at the McCarter Theater at 6:30 p.m. For more info call 609-258-6524.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

Newark — African Globe House of Poetry returns. Poet Helena D. Lewis performs at 5:00 p.m. at the African Globe Studios. For more info call 973-624-1584.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 29

Newark — The Newark Public Library presents Amazing Grace at 10:00 a.m. Call 973-733-3610.

TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 29

Jersey City — Liberty Science Centers will host an evening of kids free entertainment with jazz performances and movie screenings. Movie beings at 6:15 p.m. and jazz performances are from 7:15 - 9:00 p.m. For info call 201-200-1000.

Religion

ONGOING ON THURSDAYS

Newark — The Network of Christian Men, Inc., in cooperation with the Newark Literacy Campaign, Inc., seeks male and female volunteers to tutor adults, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. To become a tutor, or to receive tutoring contact Isaac Thomas, Jr., at 973-371-9741, or Stanley Crawford at 973-623-4001.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

Newark — The Calvary Baptist Church of Plainfield will celebrate their 150th Church Anniversary starting at 7:00 p.m. For more info call 908-561-5187.

Mail your calendar events to:
City News Publishing
111 Mulberry St. TH-C
Newark, NJ 07102

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The 18th Annual World Population Week - Oct. 20-26